

Chapter 16-162 WAC

Animal Production Standards for Organic Meat and Dairy Products

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WAC 16-162-010

Purpose

This chapter provides standards for producers of organic animal products including meat, dairy and eggs, pursuant to RCW 15.86.060.

WAC 16-162-025

Certification

All animal products marketed and/or labeled as organic must be produced by producers certified by the department or an official organic certifying agent recognized by the department. Producers of organic animal products seeking certification as an organic food producer may apply for certification under chapter 16-156 WAC.

WAC 16-162-030

Definitions

As used in this chapter:

- (1) "Approved" means any material or practice which meets the required criteria or standards for use in the production of organic animal products.
- (2) "Botanical pesticides" are pesticides derived from plant materials.
- (3) "Department" means the department of agriculture of the state of Washington.
- (4) "Director" means the director of the department of agriculture or his or her duly authorized representative.
- (5) "Feed" means all edible materials which are consumed by livestock and poultry, including concentrates (grains, oilseed meals, fats and oils, vitamins and minerals) and forages (hay, straw, stover, silage, cobs, husks, hulls, pasture plants). The term "feed" encompasses all edible agricultural commodities, including crops in pasture, which is ingested by livestock for nutritional purposes;
- (6) "Feed additive" means a substance or combination of substances added to feed, or offered on free-choice basis for consumption by livestock, to fulfill specific nutritional or physiological needs, e.g., minerals, amino acids, and vitamins.
- (7) "Fertile" means any poultry animal product that is:
 - (a) Marketed using the term fertile or any derivative of fertile in its labeling or advertising; and
 - (b) A product of an animal that is in a flock of at least one rooster per twenty hens, and that incubating the eggs at a hatchery results in at least eighty percent of the eggs being fertile.
- (8) "Material" means any substance or mixture of substances that is used internally or externally in the production of animals or animal products.
- (9) "Organic animal product" means any animal products labeled and offered for sale with the words organic or any derivative of organic.

- (10)"Organic feed" means feed produced and processed organically in accordance with Organic Crop Production Standards, chapter 16-154 WAC and Standards for the Certification of Processors of Organic Food, chapter 16-158 WAC. Approved feed additives may be added to organic feed.
- (11)"Organic pasture" means ground covered with vegetation, which is suitable for grazing and has been managed in accordance with Organic Crop Production Standards, chapter 16-154 WAC, for at least thirty-six months.
- (12)"Organic range" means ground covered with vegetation, which is suitable for grazing and has been managed in accordance with Organic Crop Production Standards, chapter 16-154 WAC, for at least thirty-six months.
- (13)"Prohibited" means any material or practice which is disallowed by this chapter for the production of organic animal products.
- (14)"Remedy" means anything that relieves or cures a disease.

WAC 16-162-034

Meat from Bovine animals, swine, lamb, sheep and goat

Organic meat products produced from bovine animals, swine, lamb, sheep and goat must meet the following criteria for at least twelve months prior to slaughter or, when slaughtered in less than twelve months from birth, from birth to slaughter. In addition, when animals are slaughtered in less than twelve months from birth, the animals mother must meet the following criteria during the last third of gestation and while the slaughter animal is nursing:

- (1) Animals must be raised on one hundred percent organically grown feed.
- (2) Animals may not be administered hormones, antibiotics or synthetic parasiticides.
- (3) Animals must have fresh air, daylight and access to organic pasture or organic range.
- (4) Animals may be kept in a feedlot for up to ninety days prior to slaughter as long as the animals have access to fresh air, daylight and are fed one hundred percent organic feed.

16-162-036

Poultry and poultry products

Organic poultry products must meet the following criteria:

- (1) Birds must be raised on one hundred percent organically grown feed from the time the animals are one day old.
- (2) Birds must be raised in either:
 - (a) A moveable pen management system which is moved on a daily basis and provides access to organic pasture or organic range; or
 - (b) A living space that provides a minimum of four square feet of living space per bird, (including both inside and outside areas) and access to the outside areas. Inside areas must provide a minimum of one-and-one-half square feet per bird and be sufficient to avoid stress such as cannibalism, nervousness and self-destructive behaviors such as feather picking, self-mutilation, and limb harrowing. Outside areas must provide a minimum of one-and-one-half square feet per bird. Minimum living space requirements are calculated for the size of an adult chicken with a mature body weight of five pounds and requirements for other poultry animals are calculated proportionately according to the size of the species.
- (3) Birds must be provided shade and dusting wallows and laying birds must also be provided nest boxes and perches.
- (4) Birds may not be administered hormones, antibiotics or synthetic parasiticides from one day old to slaughter.
- (5) Organic eggs are not required to be fertile.

16-162-037**Dairy products**

Organic animal products produced from dairy animals must meet the following criteria:

- (1) Dairy animals must be raised on one hundred percent organic feed for ninety days prior to milk production and have access to only organic pasture for at least one year prior to organic milk production.
- (2) Dairy animals may not be administered synthetic parasiticides nor hormones for one year prior to organic milk production.
- (3) Dairy animals may not be administered antibiotics for ninety days prior to organic milk production.

WAC 16-162-040**Emergency feed**

In situations of an organic feed shortage which results from emergency conditions (e.g., weather conditions, road closures, crop failures), the organic livestock producer may feed non-organic feed to livestock for a limited period, provided that the organic feed shortage is temporary and unforeseeable due to emergency conditions beyond the producer's control and:

- (1) The organic livestock producer must make every reasonable effort and maintain a record of every such effort to locate organically grown feed, using the following prioritization:
 - (a) Certified organic feed;
 - (b) Non-certified organic feed;
 - (c) Feed from farms under organic management for two years;
 - (d) Feed from farms under organic management for one year; and
 - (e) Conventional feed.
- (2) The organic livestock producer notifies the department and submits the organic feed supplier record (subsection (1) of this section) to the department prior to the feeding of non-organic feed;
- (3) The department verifies the emergency conditions (e.g. weather conditions, road closures, crop failures);
- (4) The department reviews the situation to determine a maximum time period during which second year transitional organic feed, first year transitional organic feed, or conventional feed may be used;
- (5) The livestock producer may not represent egg and dairy products as organic animal products during the time period the animals are fed conventional feed plus an extended time period equal to the time period that conventional feed was fed to the animals (e.g., Organic feed unavailable for three days, no organic sales for six days); and
- (6) The livestock producer may not represent meat products as organic animal products during the time period the animals are fed conventional feed plus an extended period of ninety days (e.g., Organic feed unavailable for three days, no organic sales for ninety-three days).

WAC 16-162-045**Approved and prohibited feed additives**

- (1) The following list of feed additives are approved for adding to organic feed:
 - (a) Amino acids (chelated or nonchelated),
 - (b) Salt,
 - (c) Minerals,
 - (d) Vitamins,
 - (e) Molasses,
 - (f) Mineral oil,
 - (g) Enzymes,
 - (h) Fish meal and fish byproducts.

- (2) The following additives are prohibited for adding to organic feed:
 - (a) Synthetic additives not approved in subsection (1) of this section,
 - (b) Animal byproducts including bloodmeal, and bonemeal except for fish meal and fish byproducts.
 - (c) Processed or unprocessed animal waste (manure), and
 - (d) Feeding of plastic.

WAC 16-162-050

Living conditions

- (1) Organic livestock producers are required to provide the following living conditions for animals raised for organic meat, dairy, and egg production:
 - (a) Organic producers must provide their animals with access to fresh air and daylight;
 - (b) Every animal must have enough room to get up, lie down, turn around, groom, and stretch its limbs; and
- (2) Organic livestock producers are prohibited from practices that are contrary to humane treatment guidelines, good sanitation practices, and good animal health programs.

WAC 16-162-070

Disease and pest management

In order for animals to be considered “organically produced” an organic disease and pest management program must be in place. An organic disease and pest management program includes an integrated approach to disease and pest management that stresses preventative control. The department shall restrict producers from using the terms “organic”, or “organically produced” for producers without adequate organic disease and pest management programs.

A proper herd health program should include strategies for disease prevention, parasite control, and disease treatment. Producers of organic animal products shall market only healthy animals and animal products, and shall never deny treatment to an animal in order that it may be labeled or sold as organic. Approved disease and pest management materials and practices are:

- (1) Approved botanical insecticides for external parasite control and for fly management, only if labeled for such use;
- (2) Natural materials used in homeopathic, naturopathic, and herbal remedies;
- (3) Tamed iodine, alcohol, and/or hydrogen peroxide as a disinfectant;
- (4) Vaccinations against endemic disease including coccidiosis vaccination;
- (5) Sodium hypochlorite (bleach) for use on machinery and facilities; and
- (6) Steam sterilization of equipment.

WAC 16-162-100

Recordkeeping

- (1) All organic stock must be ear tagged or individually marked with the exception of poultry, which may be identified by flock.
- (2) Organic livestock producers must maintain the following records from birth or purchase of livestock animals and for two years after the sale of the organic animal products or slaughter of organic livestock:
 - (a) All disease and pest management materials administered including dates administered, material type, dosages, and sources.
 - (b) All purchased feeds including dates purchased, feed type, quantities purchased, sources; and a copy of organic certificates;
 - (c) Weight of slaughter animals at slaughter and weight of post-slaughter animal products; and
 - (d) Sales records of all organic animal products sold including dates, quantities, weights.
- (3) Receipts for stock and materials must be kept to insure a complete audit trail.
- (4) Inadequate recordkeeping may constitute cause for the director to prohibit labeling or marketing animal products as “organic” or “organically produced.”